

AMENDMENTSIn the Claims:

1. (Original) A process for converting starch comprising mixing a base starch with an acid, drying the mixture to a substantially anhydrous state and heating the dried mixture for a time sufficient to produce a converted starch having a funnel flow viscosity of from about 5 to about 50 seconds.
2. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the process is achieved via a fluidized bed conditions.
3. (Presently amended) The process of Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the dried mixture is heated for less than about one hour.
4. (Presently amended) The process of Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein the process is conducted as a batch process.
5. (Presently amended) The process of Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein the process is conducted as a continuous process.
6. (Original) A converted starch prepared according to the method of Claim 1.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) A product comprising the starch of Claim 6.
9. (Original) The product of Claim 8 wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of adhesives, encapsulation matrices, confectioneries and paper surface sizing applications.

10. (Presently amended) A method of using the converted starch of Claim [[4]] 6 to confer unique gelling and textural properties to products.

11. (Canceled)